

On August 15, 2022, Maryland was declared a Technology First State through a governor's proclamation, which means Maryland is committed to empowering all Marylanders with disabilities to have access to technology that will enhance their ability to pursue their best life as they define it.

Technology First is defined as:

A "framework for systems change where technology is considered first in the discussion of support options available to individuals and families through person-centered approaches to promote meaningful participation, social inclusion, self-determination and quality of life." (Tanis, 2019)

DDA Waiver Services:



Remote Supports

Remote Support Services provide oversight and monitoring within a person's home through an off-site electronic support system in order to reduce or replace the amount of staffing a person needs, while ensuring their health, safety, and welfare.

Examples

- Emergency alert sensors
- Two-way communication devices
- Remote monitoring
- Voice-activated appliances



Assistive Technology Services

"Assistive Technology" or "AT" is an item, computer application, software, piece of equipment, or product system that maintains or improves a person's functional ability and promotes their ability to live independently and meaningfully participate in their community.

Examples

- Assistive Technology assessments
- iPads
- Weighted spoons
- Screen readers
- Apps for creating social stories
- GPS maps
- Scheduling software and apps

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I identify my technology needs?

Utilize your support system—family, friends, colleagues and medical professionals, if applicable—to talk about what your needs are and seek ideas and thoughts from people you trust. Once you have talked to those closest to you, reach out to your coordinator of community services (CCS) about scheduling a team meeting to discuss technology options and whether a technology assessment would be helpful or needed depending on what you've identified. Your CCS can explore with you the various technology options or refer you to one of our technology libraries where you can test the technology. See below for additional resources.

Once I have identified what I need, how do I get the services?

Congratulations on finding technology that can help meet your needs. Please share that information with your CCS who can help create or revise your person-centered plan (PCP) to include Assistive Technology Services.

Where in my PCP should I document my technology needs?

Technology can be identified in your PCP in a variety of locations depending on your needs. For example, you may use technology at home and in the community, so that should be documented in the applicable Focus Area Exploration sections. If technology is being used to support a health and safety need, you should also identify that on the risks page of your PCP. There is also a Technology section, which includes space for you to describe the technology you use throughout your day.

Maryland Resources

- **Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP)** - Offers assistive technology (AT) libraries across the state, AT demonstrations, consultations, short-term device loans, a high-tech AT Reuse Center, training, webinars and a low-interest financial loan program: mdod.maryland.gov/mdtap/Pages/MDTAP-Home.aspx
- **Access Maryland** - Works closely with project engineers, architects, and construction managers to ensure that individuals with a range of physical disabilities can fully interact and engage with buildings, parks, universities, and other state-owned facilities across the state of Maryland: mdod.maryland.gov/accessmd/Pages/Access-Maryland-Home.aspx
- **Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)**- Provides funding for work-related technology, e.g., desktop or portable video magnifiers, note-taking devices and specialized software: dors.maryland.gov/consumers/WTC/RTS/Pages/AT.aspx
- **Arc Tech Toolbox**- A place to find, share, rate and review technology for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities: [Tech Toolbox™ \(thearc.org\)](http://TechToolbox™(thearc.org))
- **Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration's Mobility Link All Access** - MDOT MTA Mobility has expanded its service to customers with Mobility All Access, an online desktop and mobile phone software application that significantly enhances previous online services like ride-bookings, lookups and trip cancellations. Mobility All Access replaces PassWeb, the prior application used to book mobility trips, and expands its capabilities for use on smartphones: [Mobility All Access | Maryland Transit Administration](#)
- **Kennedy Krieger Assistive Technology Clinic**- Combines innovative technologies and the expertise of specialists to allow children and adults to enjoy many of the same activities as their peers: [Assistive Technology Clinic | Kennedy Krieger Institute](#)
- **Hello It's Me** - Locally grown social and dating app for people with disabilities: [Hello, It's Me Home Page \(hello-itsme.com\)](http://Hello,It'sMeHomePage(hello-itsme.com))
- **Home Modification Self-Help Guide** - Provides information and resources about home modification: peoples-law.org/home-modification-self-help-guide

Additional Resources

- **Assistive Technology Industry Association** - Gathers research on assistive technology products: atia.org/home/at-resources/
- **Assistive Technology Resource Roundup** - Publishes various blogs and personal experiences of people who use AT products: edutopia.org/article/assistive-technology-resources/
- **National Organization of Home Modifications** - Provides Information on home modifications, vendors and funding resources: homemods.org/national-directory/
- **Cognitopia**- A web-based application to create social stories: [Home2 - Cognitopia Website](#)
- **Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology (PEAT)** - Provides information about combining technology with services to create inclusive workspaces: [PEAT - Building a Future That Works - Peatworks](#)

